

an aqueous solution having a temperature of at least 80°C, with 0.1 to 0.5% surfactant removing agent, and having a pH from about 4 to about 10, said solution also containing at least one of a buffer, salt or chelator tissue activating agent.

18. The composition of claim 17 where the solution has a pH of from 5.96 to 6.0.
19. The composition of claim 17 where the surfactant is a detergent.
20. The composition of claim 17 where the surfactant is at least one of cationic, anionic amphoteric or nonionic.
21. The composition of claim 17 where the tissue activating agent is a metal salt.
22. The composition of claim 17 where the tissue activating agent is aluminum chloride, sodium chloride, sodium fluoride, iron chloride, zinc sulfate, or lead thiocyanate.
23. The composition of claim 17 where the tissue activating agent is a chelator.
24. The composition of claim 17 where the tissue activating agent is at least one of EDTA (Sigma #E9884); EGTA (Sigma #E4378); CDTA (Sigma #D0922); EDADP-X (Sigma #E1254); EDADP-B (Sigma #E2004); EDDHA (Sigma #E4135); DFA (Sigma #D9533); PPi (Sigma #P8010); EDTP-B and EDTP-X.
25. The composition of claim 17 where the tissue activating agent is at least one of EDDHA, EDTA and EGTA.
26. A composition of claim 17 where the tissue activating agent is a chelator at a concentration of about 1-2 mM.
27. The composition of claim 17 where the tissue activating agent is a buffer.

28. The composition of claim 17 where the tissue activating agent is at least one selected from the group consisting of: citric acid, tartrate salt, phthalate salt, borate salt, tris(hydroxymethyl) aminomethane (Tris-HCl), ECTA and phosphate salt.

29. The composition of claim 17 where the solution has a pH of from 5 to 8.

30. The composition of claim 17 where the tissue is immersed at 80°C for at least about 50 min, at about 100°C for at least about 30 min, at about 110°C for at least about 20 min or at about 120°C for at least about 10 min.

31. A method for enhancing immunochemical staining of a paraffin-embedded, formalin-fixed tissue in a single step, the method comprising;

immersing said tissue for a period of at least 10 min and a temperature of at least 80°C in an aqueous 0.1 to 0.5% surfactant removing agent solution having a pH from about 4 to about 10, said solution also containing at least one of a buffer, salt or chelator tissue activating agent.

32. The method of claim 31 where the solution has a pH of from 5.96 to 6.0.

33. The method of claim 31 where the surfactant is a detergent.

34. The method of claim 31 where the surfactant is at least one of cationic, anionic amphoteric or nonionic.

35. The method of claim 31 where tissue activating agent is a metal salt.

36. The method of claim 31 where the tissue activating agent is at least one of aluminum chloride, sodium chloride, sodium fluoride, iron chloride, zinc sulfate, and lead thiocyanate.

37. The method of claim 31 where the tissue activating agent is a chelator.

38. The method of claim 31 where the tissue activating agent is at least one of EDTA (Sigma #E9884); EGTA (Sigma #E4378); CDTA (Sigma #D0922); EDADP-X (Sigma #E1254);

EDADP-B (Sigma #E2004); EDDHA (Sigma #E4135); DFA (Sigma #D9533); PPi (Sigma #P8010); EDTP-B and EDTP-X.

39. The method of claim 31 where the tissue activating agent is at least one of EDDHA, EDTA and EGTA.

40. A method of claim 31 where the tissue activating agent is a chelator at a concentration of about 1-2 mM.

41. The method of claim 31 where the tissue activating agent is a buffer.

42. The method of claim 31 where the tissue activating agent is at least one of: citric acid, tartrate salt, phthalate salt, borate salt, tris(hydroxymethyl) aminomethane (Tris-HCl), ECTA and phosphate salt.

43. The method of claim 31 where the solution has a pH of from 5 to 8.

44. The method of claim 31 where the tissue is immersed at about 80°C for at least about 50 min, at about 100°C for at least about 30 min, at about 110°C for at least about 20 min or at about 120°C for at least about 10 min.